

tions and galleries which annually open their doors and display their treasures for the improvement and delight of the thousands who throng to the great metropolis of England, I know of none more interesting than the Photographic Exhibition, which has now become an annual one, and 'aken rank as such among the regular exhibitions of the year.

But photography does not content itself with ministering to the pleasure of the lovers of art; it has become the active handmaid of science,—giving to the astronomer faithful portraits of the heavenly bodies—to the zoologist and botanist the most accurate representations of the most complex subjects in their various departments—representations such as the ablest draughtsman could not furnish them with, in which the most minute peculiarities of form and structure are so wonderfully reproduced, that, as has been observed, “naturalists might even make discoveries upon these faithful images of nature, as they could have done upon nature itself.” Nay, to such perfection has this art been brought, that the most transitory objects, even to the portrait of a shell while in full flight from a mortar, has been faithfully registered: the photographic eye being “more sensitive than the living one, and registering impressions too fine for human vision!”

Of that most wonderful of all the modern applications of science, the electric Telegraph, I am sure I shall be excused for quoting the remarks made by Professor Owen, in reference to it, in the course of his admirable address to the British Association. After referring to the discoveries in electro-magnetism, the Professor says: “Remote as such profound conceptions and subtle trains of thought seem to be from the needs of every-day life, the most astounding of the practical augmentations of man's power has sprung out of them. Nothing might seem less promising of profit than Oersted's painfully pursued experiments with his little magnets, voltaic piles, and bits of copper wire;—yet out of these has sprung the electric cable! Oersted himself saw such an application of his convertibility of electricity into magnetism, and made arrangements for testing that application to the instantaneous communication of signs through distances of a few miles. The resources of inventive genius have made it practicable for all distances, as we have lately seen in the submergence and working of the electro-magnetic cord connecting the old and the new world. On the 6th of August, 1858, the laying down of upwards of 2,000 nautical miles of the telegraph cords connecting Newfoundland and Ireland was successfully completed,